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STRATEGIES FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL, PARTICULARLY IN URBAN AREAS AND IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC SECURITY

MEASURES TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The present addendum brings to the attention of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice additional information provided by Governments as of 31 March 1996, thereby updating the report of the Secretary-General on measures to prevent illicit trafficking in children (E/CN.15/1997/12). It summarizes the replies of 5 States (Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, India and Tunisia), bringing the total number of responding States to 28.

2. Denmark had no further observations to make on the elaboration of an international convention or conventions on trafficking in children.

3. Egypt reported that it was not affected by the phenomenon of international trafficking in children in the same manner as some other States in which such trafficking was carried out by criminal organizations operating on a transnational basis with extra-national links. Egypt provided detailed information on its legislation providing for the protection of children from this type of crime.

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4. Hungary was of the view that since the majority of cases of trafficking in children was connected with child prostitution and pornography, it was necessary to consider criminal legislation on those two categories of crime together.

5. India stated that it was giving considerable attention to the issue of trafficking in children. The advent of economic liberalization and the increasing migration of people from India for employment and other purposes overseas had given rise to the practice of sending minors abroad for illegal purposes, with the intention of even using them in forced labour, camel racing and prostitution. In 1994, a total number of 794 cases of trafficking in children were reported to law enforcement agencies. There was trafficking in girls, particularly from Nepal and Bangladesh into India, where they were taken to cities such as Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras and sold for immoral purposes. There was also trafficking in children to States of western Asia, where girls were offered for marriage and boys for bonded labour, particularly in camel racing.

6. Tunisia supported the initiative to elaborate a convention against trafficking in children and their sexual exploitation, and suggested the inclusion of the following elements in such a convention:

(a) Provisions for improved cooperation between States to combat this form of organized transnational crime;

(b) Establishment of a central registry of paedophiles and a registry of missing children;

(c) Establishment of mechanisms that allow for action against the exploitation of children in the production of pornography;

(d) Provision of assistance, for example, through the implementation of family assistance programmes, to States in which children are exposed to this new form of slavery.